

## Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 USSS-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SCS-03 SCA-01 CU-02 /070 W  
----- 001582

O R 310720Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8433

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1823

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: ZAIRE CONSUL GENERAL

1. EMBOFF MET LATE MAY 30 WITH ZAIRIAN CONSUL GENERAL ILANGWA-E-YOKO (AKA LANGWA) FROM KIGOMA, WHO IN DAR ENROUTE BACK TO HIS POST (LIANGWA HAS NOT BEEN IN KIGOMA SINCE BEFORE KIDNAPPING OCCURRED). HE PLANS FLY TO BUJUMBURA MAY 31, ARRIVING THERE 1630 HOURS (LOCAL) ON AIR ZAIRE FLIGHT QC-063 FROM NAIROBI. HE WILL THEN SEEK ARRANGE CHARTER TO KIGOMA. (MACFARLANE ALERTED CONGEN MAY WISH TO USE SAME CHARTER HE TOOK TO BUJUMBURA; CONGEN ALSO TOLD BY EMBOFF THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBILITY.)

2. EMBOFF ADVISED ILANGWA OF STEINER/MACFARLANE TRAVEL PLANS, AND SUGGESTED HE CONTACT MACFARLANE WHILE IN BUJUMBURA. HE THOUGHT THIS A GOOD IDEA, AND SAID CONTACT FOR REACHING HIM IN BUJUMBURA WOULD BE FIRST SECRETARY YENDE OF ZAIRIAN EMBASSY THERE. WE ALSO GAVE HIM HAL LUCIUS' NAME (AND MISSION PHONE  
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NUMBER) IN KIGOMA AND OFFERED HIM ACCESS TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS

FACILITIES THERE.

3. ILANGWA SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO COMMENT SUBSTANTIVELY ON CASE UNTIL HE HAD REACHED KIGOMA AND HAD OPPORTUNITY VIEW SCENE FIRST HAND, SAYING HE PRESENTLY LARGELY LIMITED TO RADIO AND PRESS ACCOUNTS. WHILE HE EXPRESSED DUE CONCERN FOR OBTAINING SAFE RECOVERY OF STUDENTS, AND AGREED ON IMPORTANCE FINDING MEANS OF CONTACTING THEM, MAIN THRUST OF HIS INTEREST SEEMED TO BE IN IDENTIFYING LOCATION OF KIDNAPPERS' CAMP. EMBOFF VOLUNTEERED ONLY THAT TESTIMONY GIVEN BY BARBARA SMUTS SEEMED TO INDICATE PRETTY CLEARLY THAT CAMP WHERE SHE WAS HELD WAS ON ZAIRIAN SIDE OF LAKE MORE OR LESS ACROSS FROM KIGOMA. (ILANGWA, LIKE OTHER ZAIRIAN DIPLOMATS HERE, REMAINED SINGULARLY RELUCTANT TO ADMIT THAT KIDNAPPERS IN FACT OPERATING OUT OF ZAIRE EVEN THOUGH, LIKE THE OTHER DIPLOMATS, MOST OF HIS OTHER REMARKS CONCEDE THAT FACT IMPLICITLY. HE MADE USUAL PITCH ABOUT MILITARY LACK OF IMPORTANCE OF KABILA GROUP OR OTHERS LIKE IT WHICH MIGHT STILL EXIST, POINTING TO HIS OWN (ALLEGEDLY) SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS REPATRIATE MOST ZAIRIANS IN KIGOMA AREA.)

4. ILANGWA MENTIONED PRESS REPORTS OF DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN US AND ZAIRE OVER HANDLING OF KIDNAPPING CASE, AND EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN THAT ANYONE COULD POSSIBLY BELIEVE THAT ZAIRE COULD DO ANYTHING AGAINST US AFTER ALL THE AID WHICH US IS GENEROUSLY GIVING ZAIRE IN ITS BATTLE FOR ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. EMBOFF SCOFFED AT THESE REPORTS, NOTING JOURNALISTIC NEED TO INVENT STORIES OF DISCORD IN ORDER SELL PAPERS, AND CITED AMBASSADOR CARTER'S PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR CONTACTS WITH ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT ON CASE.

5. ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES, EMBOFF SAID ONLY THAT US EXPLORING VARIETY OF POSSIBILITIES FOR ENTERING INTO CONTACT WITH KIDNAPPING GANG AND THUS OPENING ROAD FOR THE ESSENTIAL NEGOTIATIONS. NOTED STEINER TRIP AS PART OF THIS EFFORT, AND ALSO AS HELPING SATISFY PARENTS' NEED TO FEEL THAT THEY DOING SOMETHING ACTIVE IN SEARCH FOR SOLUTION. ILANGWA EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT SUCH EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE IN COORDINATION WITH ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT; EMBOFF ASSURED HIM THAT OUR EMBASSY IN KINSHASA WAS IN DAILY COMMUNICATION WITH GOZ ON CASE. ILANGWA WAS QUITE EMPHATIC IN INSISTENCE THAT GOZ SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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KEPT AWARE OF WHAT USG DOING TO TRY TO CONTACT KIDNAPPERS, BUT APPEARED SATISFIED BY EMBOFF REPLY.

6. ILANGWA WAS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS ZAIRIANS WHOSE RELEASE DEMANDED BY KIDNAPPERS, OR WHETHER OR NOT SOME OF THEM BACK IN TANZANIAN CUSTODY, REMARKING THAT THE MOST SATISFACTORY WAY OF KNOWING THEIR STATUS WOULD BE TO ACTUALLY SEE THEM IN TANZANIAN JAIL. HE ALSO EXPRESSED DESIRE TO TALK TO ANY

PRISONERS TANZANIANS MAYBE HOLDING.

7. ILANGWA, ON FIRST IMPRESSION, SEEMED SELF-CONFIDENT, VAIN (VERY FLASHILY DRESSED IN WILD, PATTERNED SHIRT, NECKERCHIEF, AND INEVITABLE MOBUTU BADGE), INDEPENDENT (HE RARELY IF EVER SUGGESTED ANY DEFERENCE TO ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR WHO IS HIS NOMINAL BOSS AND PRESENTLY ON KIGOMA SCENE), AND PERHAPS NOT ENTIRELY TRUSTWORTHY. HE SEEMS, HOWEVER, FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO US (HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP IN AMERICAN PROTESTANT MISSIONARY ENVIRONMENT, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS HAS MADE HIM A TEETOTALER). HE CLAIMS TO SPEAK VERY LITTLE ENGLISH, AND ENTIRE CONVERSATION WITH HIM WAS IN FRENCH.

8. COMMENT: ILANGWA APPEARS GENUINELY CONCERNED BY PLIGHT OF KIDNAPPED STUDENTS, AND TO WANT TO SEE THEIR SAFE RETURN, AND HE RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH KIDNAPPERS IN ORDER TO EFFECT THIS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE FEELING THAT HE IS EQUALLY CONCERNED WITH HOW HE COMES OUT OF THIS, AND WITH GOZ DESIRE TO PUT AN END TO REBEL HOLDOUTS. WHILE HE MAY HAVE RESOURCES OF HIS OWN WHICH COULD PROVE VERY HELPFUL, SOME CAUTION WITH HIM SEEMS IN ORDER, BECAUSE IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES THESE OTHER MOTIVATIONS MIGHT NOT BE CONSISTANT WITH OUR OVERRIDING CONCERN FOR WELFARE OF STUDENTS. IN DEALING WITH HIM, THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST THAT ATTEMPT BE MADE TO FOCUS ON NEED FOR INTERMEDIARY AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELEASE, RATHER THAN ON PHYSICAL LOCATION OF KIDNAPPERS' CAMP. CARTER

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